

MLA 8th Edition: Works Cited

List on your Works Cited page every source you cited within your paper so that your sources can be easily referenced. Your Works Cited page comes at the end your document, and the words “Works Cited” should be centered at the top of your Works Cited page. Your citations will be double-spaced and listed in alphabetical order by the first letter of the first element of each entry. This will appear as follows:

Works Cited

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

Carmichael, Stokely. "Toward Black Liberation." *The Massachusetts Review*, vol. 7, no. 4, Autumn 1966, pp. 630-51. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/25087498.

Constructing Your Citations for Your Works Cited Page

You can use the universally applicable template included below in order to construct individual entries. Simply fill out the right-hand column of the template as shown. Then compile the information from that same column into a single entry on your Works Cited page using the punctuation indicated in the left column.

Author.	Carmichael, Stokely.
Title of source.	“Toward Black Liberation.”
Title of container.	<i>The Massachusetts Review</i> ,
Other contributors,	
Version,	
Number,	vol. 7, no. 4,
Publisher,	
Publication date,	Autumn 1966,
Location.	pp. 639-651.
Title of Second Container,	JSTOR
Other contributors for second container,	
Version of second container,	
Number of second container,	
Publisher of second container,	
Publication date of second container,	
Location of second container.	http://www.jstor.org/stable/25087498

When the information about the journal article collected above is compiled into an entry for your Works Cited page, it will appear as follows:

Carmichael, Stokely. "Toward Black Liberation." *The Massachusetts Review*, vol. 7, no. 4, Autumn 1966, pp. 630-51. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/25087498.

In order to properly utilize the template on the front side of this handout, it will be useful to know more about each core element that appears in the left-hand column of the template. The following is a good start:

Author: Last Name, First Name. If the author is unknown, simply omit this element. If there are more than two authors, include only the first author's name followed by "et al."

Title of Source: Capitalize all major words in a title (this rule generally excludes articles, conjunctions, and short prepositions that are three letters or less). If the title is one part of a larger whole, like a chapter of a book or an article in a journal volume, then put the title in "quotation marks." If you are referencing the work as a whole, like a novel or play, then *italicize* the title.

Container: If the source is one part of a larger whole, the container is the larger whole. If you are citing an article, the container is the name of the journal, magazine, or newspaper that contains it. When citing a single book chapter as your source, the container is the name of the book. If you are citing an online source, such as a blog post, the container is the website that contains a post or online article. The container is simply the next largest element housing your source. We will discuss below what to do if your container has a container.

Other Contributors: Indicate the type of contribution with words such as "translated by" or "edited by," and then provide the name of the contributor—first name first.

Version: Most commonly, a version of a work will be indicated with "ed." to indicate an edition. For example, you would write "2nd ed." to indicate a second edition or "revised ed." to indicate a revised edition. The word "version" is sometimes used, as with the King James Version of The Bible, which would simply be indicated with "King James Version."

Number: This simply indicates which part of a numbered sequence (usually of academic journals) your source belongs to. Most commonly this will be indicated with "vol." and "no."

Publisher: You need only include the name of the publisher and not the publisher's location.

Publisher Date: You can be as specific as your source allows you to be. Include at least the year. Then include as much specificity as makes sense for your audience and purposes.

Location: If your source is a shorter work inside a larger paginated container (a chapter or journal article, for example), then your location will be a page or page range indicated with "p." or "pp." If you are using an online source, then your location might be a URL or Digital Object Identifier (DOI). If the DOI is available, then it is preferable to the URL because of its permanence.

Second Container: Use this if the whole that you listed as "container" is housed within an even larger container, such as a database. You will include as much information about this second container as is available and as makes sense for your audience. Often this will mean only including the title of the container and the URL, as was the case with the journal article cited above.

For examples of citations properly constructed in MLA 8th Edition formatting, see our "MLA 8th Edition: Examples" handout.